head for administration and armed with enough power would be a thorn by the side of delinquents whose evil propensities would be nipped in the bud. The proposed appointment should therefore be sanctioned. The member claimed that, in suggesting the above appointment, he was voicing forth the opinion of all the Municipal Councils

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Janardanan Pillai, some curious prank of nature has placed your speech in close juxta-position with that of your predecessor. I cannot imagine municipal affairs viewed from more divergent points of view. For, the propositions each of you enunciated are as antithetical as they might well be. I won't say with whom my sympathy lies. That will be showing partiality. I leave it to you to guess. But this much seems to be clear that if we did have an Inspector or a Superintendent or a *liaison* officer, I say, *if* you had such a Co-ordinating Inspector as you ask for acting with the authority of an expert or with the prestige of a Government officer, I am quite sure that two such divergent speeches in respect of municipalities would not have been presented by two members of different municipalities; he will cast you both into the same mould. Therefore I say I am not very much in favour of an Inspector or Superintendent who will make all municipalities exactly the same. I, for one, am a strong advocate of individuality in human institutions as in human beings. I would like to see each municipality work out its career on individual and original lines according to its own requirements and the conditions by which it is surrounded. At the same time I quite agree with you that an annual assemblage of members of municipalities or the representatives of municipalities may be of valuable help to the general body of Municipal councillors in Travancore. But, I think, to be full and free and entirely disingenuous in their deliberations, such a conference is best if it is free from the incubus of Government control. I shall be very glad to see the gentlemen of the municipalities meet and exchange views, but do not let it be under the hand and under the eye of the Government. At any rate as an experiment I should like you to try it.

As regards the rules under various sections of the Municipal Regulation, I gather that you advocate the making of rules for closer control and guidance. Upon that point I expressed myself, not to the last speaker, but to one who preceded him a little while ago. I said that the Government's hand in respect of the municipalities should only appear when something goes wrong ; otherwise the Government should stay their hands.

MEMBER : Even in the Regulation it is said that rules will be framed.

DEWAN : I do not know whether it is that the rules shall be framed or may be framed. I will have that point looked up.

152. Supervision of Municipalities.

MR. MATHU MATTHEW (*Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam*) emphasized the need for the appointment of a Superintendent of Municipalities. He said that the administration of Municipalities and the nature of control exercised over them by the Government were not satisfactory. The same matter was pressed at the previous session of the Assembly and the Government thereupon referred the same to the several Municipal Presidents who, however, did not support the proposal. The Presidents of the Municipal Councils were mainly responsible for the existing defects in Municipal administration. Under Section 30(1) of the Municipal Regulation, when a resolution was passed by any Council against the opinion of the President, the latter had the power to recommend to the Government the vetoing of the resolution and, pending orders of the Government, to keep the resolution in abeyance without bringing it into effect. Such powers led to unpleasant situations in certain Municipal Councils. It was therefore surprising that the Government accepted the views of the Presidents as regards the proposed appointment of a superintending officer. Municipal Councils were the training ground for practising local self-government.

In view to check excesses and administer timely corrections to the Councils and inform the Government of the defects in the working of these Councils a separate officer was absolutely necessary. Due to the absence of such an officer, the Government were not informed in time of the defects in the working of the Councils. The resolutions passed in the Councils were sent up to the Government for publication in the *Government Gazette* six or seven months after they were passed.

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Under Section 248 of the Municipal Regulation, the Government had the power to vary or set aside such resolutions. The exact significance of the resolutions could be known to the Government only through complaints, if any, preferred by rate-payers. The member himself had complained about certain proceedings of the Kottayam Municipal Council.

There were no bye-laws for the guidance of the Municipal Council, Kottayam, in holding meetings and conducting proceedings. Meetings were often held at the will and pleasure of the presidents. Many taxes had been imposed by the several Municipal Councils, but no Council had framed bye-laws for the levy and collection of all such taxes. Several sets of bye-laws had yet to be issued under Sections 254 of the Municipal Regulation. The provisions in the Account Code about maintenance of Municipal accounts were incomplete and not clear. Each Council had prescribed its own forms of accounts and registers. There were no fixed rules for the collection of taxes and for appointing or punishing Municipal employès. As an instance, the member said that the Sanitary Inspector, Kottayam, was suspended, for one year. in 1100 and an unqualified hand was appointed instead. When the Government vetoed the appointment, the Prsident recommended that the man already appointed should be given a place according to his qualifications. That led to a long correspondence. Similarly, the Typist and Vital Statistics clerk was suspended for six months on a flimsy ground. The suspension was cancelled by the Government with the result, the Municipal Council had to bear the extra cost involved in appointing a substitute during the suspension period.

When Vice-Presidents held charge of the Councils during the absence of the Presidents, they acted against the opinion of the latter; and in such cases, it was difficult to decide whose opinion should prevail. The Vice-Prsident of the Kottayam Council, for instance, had punished the employés during the absence of the President who, after his return, cancelled such punishments. Such irresponsible actions made appointments under Municipal Councils insecure. In view to remedy such a state of affairs, the pensionable officers of the superior service in the Municipal Councils should be under the control of a single officer and their places should be made interchangeable.

In conclusion, the member once more pleaded for the appointment of a Superintendent of Municipalities in view to co-ordinate the work of the several Councils and bring uniformity of procedure and to advise the Councils whenever necessary. If such an officer could not be appointed, a committee of officials and non-officials should be constituted to enquire into and report on the existing working of the several Municipal Councils.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mathu Matthew, you have already heard the observations I made about the proposed appointment of an officer for municipalities, and I need only add now that this can be taken up, if at all, only after the Village Panchayat Regulation comes into operation.

153. Unemployment.

MR. AIYAPPAN PILLAI MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Member, Kalkulam taluk, Group I*) said that his object was to bring to the notice of the Government the various matters relating to unemployment in the State, especially as the Government had appointed a committee to enquire into the state of unemployment in Travancore and suggest remedial measures. It was regrettable to note that the Director of Agriculture was not appointed as one of the members of the committee. The questionnaire published by the committee chiefly related only to the unemployment among the educated classes but not among others although the resolution advocating the appointment of the committee passed by the Legislative Council and accepted by the Government related to unemployment in general. The committee should therefore be asked to pursue their work in accordance with the resolution. Secondly, the Director of Industries was a member of the committee while the Director of Agriculture was not. That was a defect in its constitution and should be remedied at once.

An economic survey was a preliminary to the enquiry into the causes and the remedies for unemployment. The several questions included in the questionnaire already published did not show that the committee wanted to ascertain the economic

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